

A Land Use Plan: Ringwood's Policy for Growth Management

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**by
Troy A. Krup
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ABSTRACT

Today, McHenry County is the fastest growing county in Illinois. This growth has caused the municipalities within to feel the need to expand their borders in the event that another municipality should "get there first." This problem first came to Ringwood's attention in the summer of 1993 when the neighboring municipality of Johnsburg unveiled its future land use development goals in a document commonly referred to as a land use plan. The Johnsburg land use plan included as a goal, the inclusion of the territory known as Ringwood within its corporate limits.

This situation was unacceptable to the community of Ringwood. They felt its historic significance, its harmonious land use development, and its highly valued quality of life were all reasons of unique importance worth fighting for. After looking at all the options, residents felt that only through incorporation would they be allowed to develop their own land use plan with their own development policies according to their development priorities. In November 1994, Ringwood became incorporated which entitled the new village to create its own land use plan for the purpose of guiding development activities and land conversion in and around the village. This thesis, *A Land Use Plan: Ringwood's Policy for Growth Management*, is the land use plan developed for and adopted by the Village of Ringwood. The plan primarily encourages developers to maintain open space and environmental areas in and around the village for the purpose of preserving Ringwood's unique rural character.